

Reflection on Perth Study Tour 2014

Written by Stephannie Hoo

My amazing Perth study tour started on June 28. I have never imagined that I could learn such a lot of things that have increased my exposure throughout the tour. Some people believe that you can only know more about the culture of a country by doing lots of sightseeing activities. However, I can tell you that this is NOT TRUE as I have gained a lot in our school's study tour.

First and foremost, I am so grateful that I have met a great host family. In the 16-day tour, the Atkins were extremely nice, friendly and generous to me. I always felt beloved since the Atkins took care of me and my roommate 24/7. They really paid lots of effort on making us feel like at home, for instance, their excellent cooking of some delicious dishes; their tailored-made arrangement of different weekend activities; and providing us with perfect facilities to make us live comfortably, etc. So during my homestay in Perth, I didn't get homesick because this family has given me the warmest hospitality. From The Atkins, I realize that a good relationship can only be found if both parties are willing to give out their love unconditionally. When you give out your love to others, they will feel beloved. In return, they will care more about you and bring warmth to you. If everyone is willing to love each other without asking for any return, our place will surely be a better place to live.

Besides, Australians have taught me to be respectful. As you may know that Australia is a country with people coming from different nationalities, everyone comes from different background - ranging from their skin color, language, to their tradition and culture. However, this is a country that has shown me how multi-races can live in peace and harmony. The key is to respect each other and be polite to everyone. One example I would like to share with you is that of seeing daily commuters say 'good morning' and 'thank you' to the bus driver whenever they get on or off the bus. Another example is that all students are required to give seats to senior citizens, the disabled or pregnant women on trains. I now understand why every single person in Australia has a smile on his/her face, this is because they respect each other and treat each other equally.

On the other hand, my English level has been enhanced after this study tour. I worked hard to increase my vocabulary bank by observing the things happening around me, from a restaurant menu to various forms of media advertisement in Perth. Moreover, I have improved my listening skills too as I kept on talking with different people from different countries every day in Perth. At first, it was a challenging task because their English accent were different from mine. However, I tried to be patient and listened to them. At last I could understand 90% of what they said toward the end of my trip! What a great achievement I have had!

I deeply understand why people say 'Travelling a thousand miles is better than reading a thousand books.' This study tour has brought me lots of exposure and life experience that I will never be able to read from books. Lastly, I am so thankful to my tour teachers, Miss Hui and Mr Chan, and of course, our tour leader Charles too. Their care, sharing and guidance throughout the trip was highly appreciated. Thanks to our Principal Cheung who has supported us to have such an eye-opening learning experience!